

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /205 W

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R 212115Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3686

SECDEF

INFO USCINCSO

SECARMY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 6995

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE
ARMED SERVICES OF ARGENTINA

REF BUENOS AIRES 6680

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO URGE THE SUPPORT OF SECSTATE
AND SECDEF IN PROMPT INITIATION OF A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ENHANCE
COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE ARMED
SERVICES OF ARGENTINA.

2. CURRENTLY THERE ARE SEVERAL INDICATORS THAT THE ARMED SERVICES
OF ARGENTINA ARE UNDER INCREASING POLITICAL PRESSURE TO REDUCE
THEIR TIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US, TO INCLUDE POSSIBLE
REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE US MILITARY GROUP. IN VIEW OF
EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE SOUTHER CONE OF
SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE, I CONSIDER IT VITALLY
IMPORTANT THAT THE US TIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ARGENTINE
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ARMED FORCES BE RETAINED AND, IF POSSIBLE, STRENGTHENED RATHER

THAN WEAKENED OR DESTROYED. POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ARMED FORCES ARE IMPORTANT TO THE US FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS.

3. I CONSIDER THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES, MORE SPECIFICALLY THE ARGENTINE ARMY, TO BE ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL FORCES EXISTING IN ARGENTINA, THE OTHER BEING THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PERON. AS THE FACTIONALIZED ARGENTINE SOCIETY MOVES INTO A MOST UNCERTAIN PERIOD, THE ARGENTINE ARMY APPEARS TO BE THE MAJOR STABILIZING INFLUENCE EXISTING IN THIS COUNTRY. POSITIVE PROGRAMS OF US-ARGENTINE MILITARY COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WILL PRODUCE LONG TERM POLITICAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE US. CONVERSELY, AS I STATED IN MY MESSAGE CONCERNING ARGENTINE TRADE WITH CUBA, REF A, IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT REDUCTION OF TIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES WILL WORK TO THE LONG TERM DISADVANTAGE OF BOTH THE US AND ARGENTINA. IT COULD CREATE A DANGEROUS VACUUM. OTHER COUNTRIES, PERHAPS SOME WITH INTERESTS INIMICAL TO THOSE OF THE US, WILL FILL THAT VACUUM AS THE GERMANS DID PRIOR TO WWII.

4. IN ADDITION TO MILITARY-POLITICAL REASONS INDICATED ABOVE, THE ENHANCEMENT OF US TIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES IS IMPORTANT TO THE US FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, NOT SOLELY TO INCREASE THE SALE OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT VIS-A-VIS THIRD COUNTRY SALES, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY TO ORIENT THE PERSONNEL OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES TOWARD US TECHNOLOGY AND US COMPANIES RATHER THAN TOWARD THIRD COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN THIRD COUNTRY COMPANIES. OFFICERS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES, BOTH ACTIVE AND RETIRED, PERMEATE THE GROWING ARGENTINE INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT. CURRENT AND FUTURE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN ARGENTINA DEPEND TO A MAJOR DEGREE ON THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CUSTOMER AND COMPANY. UNDER AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THERE IS A CONTINUING AND RENEWED EFFORT BY THE GOA TO MAXIMIZE ARGENTINE TECHNOLOGY AND ARGENTINE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. WITHIN THEIR GROWING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENTS AS WELL AS IN THEIR VERY SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES SEEK AND NEED TECHNICAL TIES WITH MORE DEVELOPED NATIONS. INCREASING US COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION APPEARS FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME; FAILURE OF THE US TO TAKE PROMPT INITIATIVES MAY RESULT IN THE

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ARMED FORCES INCREASING THEIR TIES WITH SELECTED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AT THE EXPENSE OF US INTERESTS AND FUTURE US ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

5. SINCE FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY GROUP HAS RECOMMENDED VARIOUS INITIATIVES BETWEEN THE US AND THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES IN THE MATERIEL AREA. IN AN 19 APRIL 73 LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE I OUTLINED MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR SUCH

INITIATIVES TO INCLUDE RECIPROCAL SALES, COLLABORATION IN CO-PRODUCTION, AND COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN LETTER OF 21 MAY 73 INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SEND TO ARGENTINA A SMALL DOD TECHNICAL TEAM TO EXPLORE AREAS OF HIGH POTENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 6995

NECESSARY PRELIMINARY WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS TEAM HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR END OF OCT OR NOV. I STRONGLY URGE THAT THIS TEAM BE FULLY SUPPORTED IN ORDER THAT, WORKING WITH ARGENTINE COUNTERPARTS, EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAN AT LAST BE INITIATED. SUCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA WAS EXPRESSED IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN MAY 1970 EXPRESSING THE "DESIRABILITY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMED SERVICES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PROJECTS OF A TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC NATURE."

6. COMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NEAR-TERM

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESULTS WOULD BE THE EARLY FIELDING OF A PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT SURVEY TEAM. BECAUSE OF THE STRONG INTEREST OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY DOMINATED MILITARY FACTORIES COMMAND, I RECOMMEND THAT SURVEY TEAM BE ARMY ORIENTED. THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT SURVEY TEAM WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES

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SPECIFIC AREAS OF HIGH POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION IN THE AREAS OF PRODUCTION, CO-PRODUCTION, POTENTIAL PURCHASES FROM ARGENTINA AND US ON RECIPROCAL BASIS, AND COLLABORATIVE PROPOSALS WHEREIN ARGENTINA MIGHT PRODUCE REPAIR PARTS, EQUIPMENT OR MUNITIONS OF TYPES AND QUANTITIES WHICH ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY PRODUCED IN THE US. IN THIS LATTER CATEGORY IT IS FORESEEN THAT ANY ARGENTINE PRODUCTION COULD BE LARGELY IN SUPPORT OF THIRD COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN DIRECT US REQUIREMENTS. WITH APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF THIS CONCEPT, I FORESEE THAT ARGENTINE ARMY OR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WOULD INVITE SMALL SURVEY TEAM HERE. AS THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND PERONIST POLITICAL LEADERSHIP INDICATE UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING VALUE OF RETAINING MILITARY TIES WITH THE US, I CONSIDER PROMPT ACTION IN THE MATERIEL FIELD, SPECIFICALLY PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT, TO HOLD PROMISE OF MAJOR PAYOFF - BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC. PROPOSED COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM OF US AND ARGENTINA IN PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT SHOULD BE INITIATED WITHOUT DELAY. SPECIFIC SUGGESTED DATES FOR PROPOSED VISIT HERE BY SURVEY TEAM WILL BE COORDINATED WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES SHORTLY AFTER 12 OCT, THE DATE OF INAUGURATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

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